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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 1, 1902.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The seventy-second annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, in this city, Friday, April 4, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. The general authorities of the Church, presidents of stakes and also all engaged in the ministry, who can make it convenient to attend, are cordially invited to be present.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held on Friday, April 4, at 7 p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH
JOHN R. WINDER
ANTHONY H. LUND
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

A conference of the Sunday schools of the Latter-day Saints will convene in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday evening, April 6th, at 7 o'clock. Stake and ward officers and teachers are requested to attend and an invitation to be present is cordially extended to the public.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
GEORGE REYNOLDS,
JOS. M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.

GEO. D. PYPER,
Secretary.

THE SALARIES VETO UNSOUND.

The veto of the salaries ordinance by Mayor Thompson, is the subject of much discussion by the newspapers and by the public. The increase of pay to the fire department was recommended by the Mayor in his message to the City Council. It is thought by some persons that the veto is inconsistent with the message. The Mayor, however, evidently feels justified in objecting to the ordinance because of the legal opinion rendered by the City Attorney, and whether the veto and the message disagree or not, the Mayor ought not to be expected to sign any ordinance that appears to be invalid. The city's executive should be commended, rather than blamed, for following the law and the constitution, even though this should involve an apparent contradiction of his own advice previously given.

The reasons and citations of law presented by the City Attorney do not seem to us by any means conclusive. The gentleman holds, as reported, that the act of the Legislature of March 5th, 1899, is invalid, so far as the attempt is made to confer upon city councils the power to increase or decrease the salaries to be paid to the police or fire department officers, during the time of their appointments. In support of this objection he refers to section 225 of the Revised Statutes, which reads as follows:

"All officers of any city shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by ordinance, but the compensation of any such officers shall not be increased or diminished to take effect during the time for which any such officer was elected or appointed."

Continuing on this line of argument, he further cites the requirement of the State Constitution that "no law shall be revised or amended by reference to its title only; but the act as revised, or section as amended, shall be re-enacted and published at length." This provision of the Constitution has been decided by the Supreme Court as restrictive and mandatory in regard to statutory amendments.

All that looks very plausible on its face, but it has one fatal defect, and that is, that the act of the Legislature of 1899 does not purport to be a "revision" or "amendment" to any previous statute, but is a new law which specifically repeals the former provision in regard to the salaries of city officers, and therefore does not come under the restrictions that are alleged, or any mandate that has been issued. There is nothing in the law of 1899, or in its title, that intimates in any way that it is the nature of a revision or amendment of former statutes. On the contrary, it specifically repeals all acts and parts of acts in conflict therewith, and specifically repeals the act of 1899 in the repealing clause. All the arguments and quotations based on the notion that the act of 1899 was an amendatory statute, falls flat to the ground.

The City Attorney is also a little wide of the mark in regard to the idea that the officers in the police and fire departments are appointed for a term or certain time of office. There is no such limitation in their appointments; therefore the language of the old law, even though it had not been repealed, might not apply restrictively in their case. However that may be, it is clear that the provision of the Constitution requiring the re-enactment and publication in full of any act revised or amended, has no application to the law of 1899 for the reason that we have set forth.

What the City Council will do with the veto remains to be seen. If there is no other objection to the measure

than those set forth by the City Attorney, by which the Mayor has evidently been misled, the ordinance ought, to pass. We should think that under the circumstances, seeing that the Mayor, in the first place, advised the raising of the salaries of the fire department, and that his reason for changing this attitude, if he has done so on that question, were based on the legal opinion furnished him and which is clearly founded on an error, he would now revise the veto, or at any rate would not further object to the passage of the ordinance.

We offer no opinion as to the advisability of raising the salaries of city officers under present circumstances, but have simply confined our remarks to the legal aspects of the case, and the validity of the ordinance which has been passed by the City Council. Reference to the wording of the act of March 5, 1899, on which the council has acted, will show beyond question that it is a new statute of the State, duly enacted, and is not in any sense an amendment or revision of previous acts of the Legislature. This will sweep away at one stroke of the broom the legal opinions on which the Mayor's veto was predicated.

CRITICISM CHALLENGED.

The editor of the Western Recorder, has issued a challenge to "higher critics" to prove the correctness of their theory about the Scriptures, by giving to the world a Bible, in every respect better than that which they criticize.

This challenge is very reasonable. The gentleman argues as follows: The critics claim that the books of the Bible are the words of religious leaders of the past, carefully selected and edited. On this hypothesis it should be possible to repeat that process in our own time. It should be possible for the critics to appoint competent men to select from the vast literature extant the very best, edit it, and present it to the world as a bible, so much superior to the good old book, as our time is in advance of the age in which the Scriptures were written. It is incumbent upon the critics to undertake this work, and if they acknowledge that the result would be disappointing, their theory is at fault. If the Bible is a mere human composition, the marvelous knowledge of its authors, of human nature, of the fundamental principles of morality, its depth of thought and excellence of style are nothing short of miraculous. But it should be possible, at this advanced age to furnish a still more excellent foundation for morality.

We doubt, however, that the critics will apply this practical test to their theory. A young theological student once expressed the opinion that the Proverbs were not worthy of a place in the Bible. "Anyone," he said, "could write better proverbs than those credited to Solomon." The professor heard him patiently and then quietly asked him to write a few. But he did not. The critics will be very much in the situation of that student.

Implied writings bear their unmistakable marks within themselves, no matter in what age, or country, or language, they are composed. This is very strikingly seen in the Apostolic writings as compared with those of their immediate successors. The difference between genuine diamonds and imitations cannot be greater.

A DEADLY DISEASE.

According to a statement in the Medical Record, pneumonia, consumption, and heart disease are the most common causes of death in this country. The death rate from pneumonia in the United States, in 1890, throughout the area of registration, was 159.9, and in 1900 it was 191.9, per 100,000 of the population; whereas, in 1890, there were 24 and in 1900 there were 196.5 deaths from consumption under the same relative circumstances. Therefore, while the last-named disease is upon the decline, pneumonia, as the chief destroyer of life in this country, is coming into fatal prominence.

According to the same authority, there are no better preventives against pneumonia known, than disinfection, avoidance of undue exposure to inclement weather, temperate habits of life, bathing, and regular exercise in the open air, with special reference to respiration. There is nothing better, we are told, to purify the blood, and thus fortify the system against infection, than systematic deep breathing out of doors while briskly walking or engaged in horseback riding. Frequent changes of underclothing are exceedingly desirable. Linen network underwear is recommended, and active and unimpeded transpiration through the skin, complementary to the internal excretory organs, is said to be a physiological necessity neither fully nor generally appreciated.

GERMAN SOCIALISM.

Berlin dispatches say that it is estimated that in the coming elections for members of the Reichstag, the Socialists will command over three million votes, which would mean about a hundred seats, out of a total of 397.

If this estimate is correct, the strength attained by this party must cause its opponents to reflect over the conditions that have made its phenomenal growth possible. In 1890 the Socialist vote in Germany amounted to somewhat over 300,000. For years later the figure had grown to 360,000. In 1899, this number was more than doubled, there being 1,227,000 Socialist votes. In 1898 they passed the two million mark, and now they are expected to exceed three millions, and become, by far, the strongest party in the German parliament.

The Emperor has very little affection for the Socialists and as little confidence in their plans for the regeneration of the state. That the party has grown to gigantic proportions, notwithstanding this, very clearly indicates that among the great masses of the German people there is surely a strong current diametrically opposed to that which originates in the sphere of the throne. A wise constitutional monarch would listen to the voice of the people as eagerly as a president of a republic.

In order to avoid a conflict from which the people finally are sure to come out with the victory. He would sacrifice his personal ambition on the altar of peace. But kings and emperors are often too slow in interpreting the signs of the times.

All over Europe Socialism is spreading. And this must be considered a good omen, because it will prove a more or less strong barrier to the further development of the fearful system of militarism on which thrones generally rely for support, and which, had it free sway, would mean the enslaving of nations in the future, as has been the case in the past. The tendency now is toward the emancipation of the useful members of society, and this tendency is well represented in Europe by the Socialistic organizations.

UNREST IN EUROPE.

A writer in the current number of Harper's Weekly asks whether we are on the eve of a great European uprising, like that of 1848. He finds signs of a coming catastrophe in the conditions prevalent in Spain and Italy. In both countries taxation is heavy, municipal rates are cruel and unfairly levied, wages are low and the price of food is high. This is due principally to the military ambition of those countries. Large armies mean a heavy taxation in two ways: in money, and in labor withdrawn from the impoverished soil. Consider the very costly civil administration, a luxurious aristocracy claiming to be maintained in splendid idleness, and the immense drain on the country made by the revenues of the religious orders. The thinking masses of the people naturally resent these things, and they may at any moment rise against the rulers. Everything considered, the writer in Harper's concludes that a complete revolution in both Spain and Italy is only a question of time and opportunity.

The Latin-speaking nations are slow to profit by the example of France. Otherwise they would long ago have taken the government into their own hands, as did the French when Napoleon's imperialism had brought their country to the brink of ruin. If not annihilation, Switzerland too should have a lesson to impress upon the smaller nations of Europe.

Helena policemen strike. New York policemen club.

As soon as the treaty is signed please write it "American West Indies."

Up to date all the news about the triumph of wireless telegraphy comes by wire.

Those who have figured on no tariff concession to Cuba seem to have used the Baconian cipher.

Man appears to be more foolish on April 1 than on other days, but in reality he isn't.

No one need be surprised if the participants in the wireless telegraph war make the air blue.

In harnessing alcohol to labor, workmen should be careful not to get any of it into their mouths.

Judging the future by the past it probably never will be known whether Collins suicided or was murdered.

The Mayor has vetoed the salary bill, but up to the time of going to press no resignations had been sent in.

Just now Senator James K. Jones is finding the political pot very much hotter than the famous Arkansas Hot Springs.

A gentleman in Chicago named Gentleman, is suing her gentleman for a divorce. If Mr. Gentleman is a gentleman he will not oppose the divorce.

Had the injury to the Meteor III occurred in Germany, some one would have had to answer to the charge of lese majeste or something else equally horrible.

Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma are knocking at the door for admission to the Union. If the door is not opened unto them they will turn the gentle tapping into a vigorous kick.

The proposition to establish high schools in the county was voted down. It is at most a temporary check and not a defeat. The motto should still be: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

The children of a famous novelist of the day want their father to hyphenate his name and to get legislative authority for the same. A person who wants his name hyphenated should be allowed to perform the operation. It is a sign that such person has suffered syncope of common sense.

It seems a queer sort of decision, that of the Wyoming supreme court which holds that the leasing of the railroad sections gives control of the alternate government sections. On the same theory why should not leasing of the government sections give control of the alternate railroad sections?

The ship Windward, well known from Arctic explorations, has arrived in New York, where it will be fitted out for a return to the far north, with the purpose of bringing home Lieutenant Peary. Mrs. and Miss Peary are to go with the vessel north to meet the Lieutenant.

The outlook at present is that Provo may not get the assay office. One objection is, according to Director of the Mint, Roberts, that the production of gold throughout the world is becoming excessive. Even if this were so, which it is not, how could an assay office in Provo contribute to the excessive production? An assay office there would not certify "gold bricks."

The death of the Roman Catholic archbishop of Glasgow, Dr. Charles Eyre, was announced a few days ago. He was a scion of an old English Catholic family. Dr. Eyre, it is said, was highly esteemed. He was deeply interested in the local history of the church in western Scotland, and his papers on the old Glasgow cathedral, now a place of Presbyterian worship, are of much value. Dr. Eyre also published a history of St. Cuthbert, which has passed through several

editions, and a book, entitled "Children of the Bible."

A strong effort is to be made to secure a trial for Rathbone (convicted in Cuba of postal frauds) in the United States, or else to obtain a pardon for him. Of his guilt there seems not to be the least doubt. The great trouble seems to be that he got justice and his punishment was made to fit his crime. The idea seems to be held by a good many people that a fair trial means an acquittal, the retention of stolen property and the maintenance of the status quo ante socially.

It is the opinion of Dr. W. D. McCintock, dean of the University college of Chicago, that American children are irreverent because they do not get a dash of nonsense now and then at home or in the public schools. They get enough nonsense, far too much in fact. It is of the solemn, pretentious make-believe kind. But if the good doctor means that children get too little romping and frolicking, merriment and mirth, he is not far wrong.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The work of pacification and regeneration that has been going on in Cuba under direction of this government since the Spanish flag was hauled down on Jan. 1, 1899, has been accomplished in a manner that reflects the highest credit upon American administrative methods. There has been no serious riot or disturbance since the evacuation of the island by Spanish troops. General Wood reports the island to be in a condition of peaceful tranquility, and there is everywhere manifest the most complete confidence in the good faith of this government. The time is therefore opportune for the transfer of sovereignty from the United States to the Cuban people. Whether they are capable of assuming this responsibility and of peaceably discharging the functions of a free and independent government time alone will tell.

Chicago News.

To any one who will hark back to the effort to recall the enthusiasm with which this country embraced the idea of playing a wholly unselfish and philanthropic role in liberating Cuba, the installation of the new government will seem like the vindication of national honor and the demonstration of the country's purity of purpose. Having gone thus far, the question remains whether we are to give the islanders not only their political independence but the economical and industrial opportunities without which their nominal liberation will be of little worth.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

As long as Cuba has an option on annexation, the island cannot be said to be starting ruin in the face. Cuba has only to become a part of our territory to bound at once into a condition of high prosperity.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

In just eight weeks the republic of Cuba will enter upon its independent existence. On Tuesday, May 20, Gen. Wood will turn over the full government of the island to President Palma. All United States officials filling offices in Cuba will surrender their positions to Cubans. The United States troops will leave the island, with the exception of the artillery in charge of some coast defenses. Eight weeks from today the sun will rise upon "Cuba libre," and the hope in which patriotic Cubans had for half a century yearched, bled, suffered, starved and died will at last be realized. May the brightest dreams of Cuba's prosperity and happiness be realized!

Kansas City World.

The Cubans will have a great justification when the Americans give up their sovereignty of the island and embark the soldiers. But it is not at all improbable that before many moons they will be singing, "Come back to me, sweetheart."

Kansas City Star.

In selecting the first minister to Cuba President Roosevelt may be expected to exercise special care. It will be of the utmost importance to have at this post a man who is sufficiently informed as to the people and conditions of the island to take hold of the situation intelligently. Naturally the new government will in many respects be a new one. The Cuban minister to Havana, as well as the Cuban minister to Washington, will be mediums of communication.

New York Mail and Express.

After the transfer, what? There may be breakers ahead. If there are, we shall be prepared for them in some fashion. But we are not straining a point to insure ourselves against them. We are taking, nationally, an optimistic view of the situation. We have committed ourselves as a people to this view, and shall stick to it.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The April number of the Improvement Era opens with a continuation of the History of the Prophet Joseph, by Lucy Smith. It is an exceedingly interesting narration of events in the earliest history of the Church, which can be read with much profit by all. "Theism vs. Atheism" is a good paper on that theme, by Rulon M. Owen. "The Castle Builder," by Nephi Anderson, is continued. This is followed by a biographical sketch of Martha Jane Knowlton Coray. What of Your "Leads?" "Leading Events" are discussed by Prof. J. M. Tanner. There are two excellent editorials by President Joseph F. Smith, one "A Step in the Right Direction," showing the progress of what is called "Mormonism" as a force in the religious world; and the other "Hobbies," a very timely warning against one-sidedness in faith and practice. "Questions and Answers" conclude the number. The frontispiece is a portrait of Mrs. Martha J. Coray—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

The April number of the Forum opens with a paper by Sydney Brooks in which the author treats on the Philippine problem and draws some lessons from "The Exumali of the Malay States" under British rule. Among other papers are "The Anglo-Japanese Alliance," by A. Maurice Low, and "Prince Henry's Visit," by Prof. Paul & Hensch. In educational matters, Yale is represented by Prof. Ledy's paper on "The Disintegration and Reconstruction of the Curriculum," and Harvard by Prof. Hays' criticism of "Our Civic Education," while Mrs. M. K. Genthe, a Heidelberg Ph. D., gives an account of the present position of "Women at German Universities." A timely sketch of the characteristic features of "The Beer in Battle" is contributed by Edward B. Rose, a former resident in the Transvaal. In an article entitled, "Is England being Americanized?" Herbert W. Horrell replies to a paper on that subject in a former issue of the same magazine.—New York.

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